

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-03

SP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-20

NSC-07 L-03 H-03 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /173 W

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R 101551Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2157

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: EC INITIATIVES ON THE BUILDING OF EUROPE

1. BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, HAS DESCRIBED FOR ECON/COM MIN THINKING WITHIN GOF WHICH LED TO GISCARD'S INITIATIVE ON ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION. BRUNET BEGAN BY DECLARING THAT EUROPE WAS IN A SORRY STATE. THE REASONS WHY PROGRESS TOWARD UNION HAD GROUND TO A HALT WERE PRIMARILY INFLATION AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE BRITISH PEOPLE'S LACK OF SUPPORT FOR EC MEMBERSHIP. UNFORTUNATELY, INFLATION WAS ALSO THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLE TO REMEDIAL

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ACTION, SINCE GOVERNMENTS WERE TRYING TO SOLVE THEIR

ECONOMIC PROBLEMS THROUGH NATIONAL MEASURES. NONETHELESS, GISCARD BELIEVED SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO RESUME PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION OR THE COMMUNITY MIGHT WELL DISINTEGRATE. INFLATION MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION AT THE PRESENT TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOF HAD CONCLUDED THAT ANY INITIATIVES TOWARD EUROPEAN UNIFICATION WOULD HAVE TO BE PRIMARILY ON THE POLITICAL SIDE.

2. IN ORDER TO GET THIS PROCESS STARTED, BRUNET SAID, GISCARD WAS CONSIDERING CALLING A EUROPEAN SUMMIT DURING THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY. HOWEVER, BEFORE DECIDING, HE WANTED TO MAKE SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT BE A FAILURE LIKE THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT. HENCE HE HAD INVITED HIS FELLOW HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO MEET WITH HIM ON SEPTEMBER 14, IN ORDER TO GET THEIR VIEWS ON WHETHER OR NOT ENOUGH COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED AT A SUMMIT THIS YEAR TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING A FAILURE.

3. BRUNET THEN SKETCHED OUT SOME OF THE FRENCH IDEAS FOR RELAUNCHING EUROPE THAT HAD BEEN SUBMITTED BY VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FRENCH COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING. NONE OF THEM WAS PARTICULARLY NOVEL OR EARTH-SHAKING -- THIS WAS A SUBJECT THAT HAD BEEN STUDIED SO MUCH THAT IT WAS HARD TO FIND ANY NEW IDEAS. THE SORT OF THING THE FRENCH WERE THINKING OF PROPOSING AT A SUMMIT WAS MORE FREQUENT MEETINGS OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN A COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK; GIVING SOME LIFE TO THE MAJORITY VOTING PROCEDURES IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BY ATTEMPTING TO DEFINE MORE PRECISELY WHAT QUESTIONS WERE IMPORTANT AND THUS EXCLUDED FROM THE MAJORITY VOTING PROCEDURE; AND THE GRANTING OF MORE POWER TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT (A QUESTION ON WHICH, BRUNET SAID, THE GOF HAD ALWAYS BEFORE BEEN COMPLETELY NEGATIVE BUT WHICH IT WAS NOW PREPARED TO CONSIDER).

4. ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZING THAT SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT ON THE ECONOMIC SIDE WAS IMPOSSIBLE, BRUNET SAID, THE FRENCH

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WERE CONSIDERING SUCH MINOR INITIATIVES AS TRYING TO MAKE PROGRESS ON SUCH THINGS AS A EUROPEAN TRANSPORT POLICY AND A EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY. ANOTHER IDEA WAS TO STRENGTHEN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION IN AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND CIVIL AVIATION WHICH WERE NOT COVERED BY THE TREATY OF ROME. BRUNET STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO FRENCH PLAN FOR RESUMING PROGRESS TOWARD EUROPEAN UNION. AT THIS STAGE, THERE WAS JUST A COLLECTION OF RANDOM IDEAS, ALL OF WHICH WERE RATHER MODEST IN THEIR SCOPE.

5. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SEMI-PARALYSIS WHICH APPEARED TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAVE GRIPPED THE COMMUNITY, BRUNET REMARKED THAT AT ITS

NEXT MEETING THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD HAVE NO IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS. INDEED, THE ONLY IMPORTANT ISSUE WHICH THE COMMUNITY SEEMED ABLE TO DEAL WITH IN THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO WAS THE JOINT COMMUNITY LOAN DESIGNED TO RAISE MONEY TO HELP MEMBERS DEAL WITH OIL-INDUCED BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS DEFICITS. BRUNET SAID HE THOUGHT THE PROSPECTS FOR THIS LOAN BEING APPROVED WERE RATHER GOOD, WITH THE PRINCIPAL UNDECIDED QUESTION THE THE DEFINITION OF THE UNIT OF ACCOUNT IN WHICH IT WOULD BE DENOMINATED.

IRWIN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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30 JUN 2005

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